

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

December 5, 2016

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Major pipeline decisions affect Alberta (0:10)

Setting the Scene



Pipelines carry oil from northern Alberta to global buyers (CBC file photo)

Alberta is rich in natural resources, especially oil. The oil industry has brought a lot of jobs and prosperity to Alberta, especially in northern towns like Fort McMurray. Now, because of problems in the global economy, Alberta's oil industry is slowing down. Many people have lost their jobs. Oil pipelines carry oil from Alberta to foreign marketplaces. These can help Alberta's economy. However, many are worried that they are dangerous for the environment. They think Canada should focus on environmental protection and 'green' energy.

Pre-listening Questions

What is oil used for?

How much oil do you think you use per day? Do you ever use 'green' energy?

Oil is a major industry in Alberta. What are some other industries in the province?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the synonym (word with similar meaning) that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	rejected (v.)	a) seashore
_____	controversial (adj.)	b) containers
_____	rain forest (n.)	c) nature preservers/protectors
_____	coast (n.)	d) disputed
_____	replacement (n.)	e) creation, setting up
_____	expansion (n.)	f) said no to
_____	barrels (n.)	g) substitute
_____	construction (n.)	h) criticism, resistance
_____	opposition (n.)	i) tropical forest
_____	environmentalists (n.)	j) enlargement

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

bitumen – a black substance that comes from petroleum

risky – not completely safe; some threat exists

First Nations – communities that have been in Canada since the earliest time

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2uu2sc

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true or false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Justin Trudeau has announced questions about three major oil pipeline projects.
2. The federal government rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline.
3. The project involved carrying bitumen from Alberta to Manitoba's northern coast.
4. The government said yes to Enbridge's replacement of Line 2.
5. That project runs to Superior, Wisconsin.
6. The Kinder Morgan project was also approved by the government.
7. That project will ship 500,000 barrels of oil a day.
8. Construction on these projects will start immediately.
9. These projects are not supported by some First Nations and environmentalists.

Food for Thought

Some First Nations and environmentalists oppose these projects. Who do you think supports these projects?

Canada was impacted by the 2008 global economic crisis. Was your home country impacted too?

Do you think Canadians should be more concerned about the environment or the economy?

News story #2 Uber ride service will return to Calgary (1:37)

Setting the Scene



Uber is a driving service, like taxis. (Ryan Remiorz/The Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Uber is a 'ride-hailing' company, which means that people can order a car to drive them somewhere. Drivers use their own cars, not taxis. People can order the cars through an app and pay through the app too. Uber is a popular service but is illegal in many Canadian cities. Taxi companies have complained that Uber didn't follow the same rules or use the same licenses. Calgary will now allow Uber to operate in the city.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you ever used Uber?

What do you do when you need to go someplace, but can't drive?

Are taxis in Canada different from those in your home country?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

announcement (n.)	message or statement to the public
bylaw (n.)	law created by a local government
covering (v.)	discussing or talking about
hailing (v.)	signaling to stop
service (v.)	work done by a company or group
injunction (n.)	a court order to stop doing something
allowed (v.)	permitted, made acceptable
signed up (v.)	registered, agreed to participate

1. Some people are wondering whether Calgary will bid to host the winter Olympic Games again. Journalists are _____ this story by asking people their opinions.
2. _____ a taxi can be difficult on the road outside the shopping centre. Cars are not _____ to stop there because it is a bus lane.
3. Hannah wanted to learn how to drive, so she _____ for some driving lessons.
4. Many parents complained that the daycare _____ used an unclean kitchen. Children were getting very sick from the food. The court put an _____ on the daycare. It is closed until they can get more information.
5. Mayor Nenshi made the _____ that he will be running for a third term. Many Calgarians are happy about this news.
6. Canadian cities have different _____ about snow removal. Some city governments organize it. Others require people to remove the snow in front of their homes.

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2uu3py

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Uber is set to return to Calgary streets on _____.	a. Thursday b. Tuesday c. January
2. City council made changes to its bylaw covering ride-hailing _____.	a. Calgarians b. commuters c. companies
3. Uber had to stop its service when _____ got an injunction.	a. the city b. the taxis c. the drivers
4. Now that bylaws have been changed, its drivers can get _____.	a. back to work b. back online c. back to Calgary
5. Some _____ are upset the rules have been changed.	a. traffic police b. taxi drivers c. tax officers
6. Uber says it's ready to start _____ in Calgary again.	a. running its office b. building the company c. offering rides
7. Uber says hundreds of drivers signed up to drive during the busy _____.	a. winter season b. Halloween season c. holiday season

Food for thought

Why do you think taxi companies are angry about Uber?

What are the pros and cons of using Uber instead of a taxi?

Many people work as Uber drivers part-time, using their own cars. Would you become an Uber driver? Why or why not?

News story #3 Cuba's Fidel Castro dead at age 90 (2:41)

Setting the Scene



Fidel Castro (*right*) was the long-running President of Cuba. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (*left*) praised the man in a video, following his death (Nicholas Kamm, Adalberto Roque/Getty) (CBC file photo)

Fidel Castro was the President of Cuba. He made Cuba the first Communist country in the west. Castro created many social reforms in Cuba. He changed the health and education systems. He was also accused of working against free speech and human rights. He was widely known as a dictator: a leader with total power whose control restricts people's rights. Under Castro's presidency, millions of Cuban people left the country to move to other places, such as the United States.

Pre-listening Questions

Have you heard of Fidel Castro? What do you know about him?

Can you name any other communist countries?

Cuba is a popular travel destination for Canadians. Why do you think that is?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Some **former** Prime Ministers write books about their careers after their job is over.
 - a. without shape
 - b. before now
2. In her culture, there is a wedding tradition of a family **procession** from the bride's home.
 - a. a type of parade that is part of a ceremony
 - b. a method of doing things correctly
3. Though John A. MacDonald was a Prime Minister of Canada, his **birthplace** is in Scotland.
 - a. the city or town where something/someone was born
 - b. the city or town where a person got married
4. After a **revolution**, the king or leader is usually removed, and new laws are created.
 - a. a forced change in opinion
 - b. a forced change in government
5. There is **controversy** around that new film: some people think it's way too violent.
 - a. a strong agreement in a group
 - b. a strong disagreement in a group
6. Visitors to Cuba will love the **remarkable** music. It's some of the best in the world.
 - a. stained, coloured
 - b. surprising, amazing
7. The northern lights are a **legendary** feature of Canada. Many tourists want to see them.
 - a. famous or very talked-about
 - b. untrue or incorrect
8. The author got an **honorary** degree from the University of Calgary for her important work.
 - a. offered as a job without pay
 - b. offered as a sign of respect or achievement
9. When a world leader dies, visitors from all over the world attend the **funeral**.
 - a. a ceremony to forgive a criminal
 - b. a ceremony to honour a dead person

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

laid to rest – buried, remembered in a funeral ceremony

ashes – the remains of a human body after cremation (burning)

pallbearer – someone who helps carry the coffin at a funeral

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2uu4gx

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. What was Fidel Castro's job?
2. What was carried in a procession through the country?
3. Where did the procession start?
4. Who or what was born in Santiago?
5. Who caused controversy with comments about Castro?
6. According to Trudeau, Castro made improvements in which two sectors?
7. What was Castro's relationship with Trudeau's father?
8. What was Castro's role at the father's funeral?
9. What is the kitten's name?

Food for thought

In your country, what happens when a leader dies?

What ceremonies take place?

How is the next leader chosen?

How do citizens honour the death of the leader?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	DECEMBER WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for December 5 th with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	Justin Trudeau has announced decisions on three major oil pipeline projects that will have a big impact on Alberta. First, the federal government has rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline. The controversial project would have carried bitumen from Alberta through the Great Bear rainforest to BC's north coast ... Trudeau said this was too risky. At the same time, the government has approved Enbridge's replacement of Line 3. It runs from near Hardisty, Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin. And the controversial Kinder Morgan Trans-Mountain pipeline expansion was also approved. The expansion will ship 590-thousand barrels of oil a day to the west coast to be sold on the global market. This doesn't mean construction on these two projects will start right away. Both still need further government approvals and face opposition from some First Nations and environmentalists.	0:10
Story 2	Uber is set to return to Calgary streets on Tuesday. The announcement comes after city council made changes to its bylaw covering ride hailing companies. Uber has been on the streets of Calgary before, but had to stop offering its service when the city got an injunction against the company. Now that the city bylaws have been changed its drivers can get back to work. Some taxi drivers are upset the rules have been changed and that Uber will be allowed to operate in Calgary. But Uber says it's ready to start offering rides in Calgary again, and says it has hundreds of drivers signed up to offer rides during the busy holiday season.	1:37
Story 3	Fidel Castro has been laid to rest. The former Cuban President died last week. He was 90 years old. Castro's ashes were carried in a procession through the country. Starting in Havana and ending in Santiago, the birthplace of the Cuban revolution. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau caused some controversy with his comments about the former president. He called Castro a "remarkable" leader, "a legendary revolutionary" who "made significant improvements to the education and healthcare of his island nation." Castro was a close friend of Trudeau's father and was an honorary pallbearer at his funeral.	2:41

Answer keys

News story 1 Major pipeline decisions affect Alberta (0:10)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>f</u>	rejected (v.)	a) seashore
<u>d</u>	controversial (adj.)	b) containers
<u>i</u>	rain forest (n.)	c) nature preservers/protectors
<u>a</u>	coast (n.)	d) disputed
<u>g</u>	replacement (n.)	e) creation, setting up
<u>i</u>	expansion (n.)	f) said no to
<u>b</u>	barrels (n.)	g) substitute
<u>e</u>	construction (n.)	h) criticism, resistance
<u>h</u>	opposition (n.)	i) tropical forest
<u>c</u>	environmentalists (n.)	j) enlargement

Listening

1. F Justin Trudeau has announced questions about three major oil pipeline projects.
2. T The federal government rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway Pipeline.
3. F The project involved carrying bitumen from Alberta to Manitoba's northern coast.
4. F The government said yes to Enbridge's replacement of Line 2.
5. T That project runs to Superior, Wisconsin.
6. T The Kinder Morgan project was also approved by the government.
7. F That project will ship 500,000 barrels of oil a day.
8. F Construction on these projects will start immediately.
9. T These projects are not supported by some First Nations and environmentalists.

News story 2

Uber ride service will return to Calgary (1:37)

Vocabulary

- Some people are wondering whether Calgary will bid to host the winter Olympic Games again. Journalists are covering this story by asking people their opinions.
- Hailing a taxi can be difficult on the road outside the shopping centre. Cars are not allowed to stop there because it is a bus lane.
- Hannah wanted to learn how to drive, so she signed up for some driving lessons.
- Many parents complained that the daycare service used an unclean kitchen. Children were getting very sick from the food. The court put an injunction on the daycare. It is closed until they can get more information.
- Mayor Nenshi made the announcement that he will be running for a third term. Many Calgarians are happy about this news.
- Canadian cities have different bylaws about snow removal. Some city governments organize it. Others require people to remove the snow in front of their homes.

Listening

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6. Uber says it's ready to start _____ in Calgary again.	a. running its office b. building the company c. offering rides
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News story 3

Cuba's Fidel Castro dead at age 90 (2:41)

Vocabulary

1. Some **former** Prime Ministers write books about their careers after their job is over.
 - a. without shape
 - b. before now
2. In her culture, there is a wedding tradition of a family **procession** from the bride's home.
 - a. a type of parade that is part of a ceremony
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3. Though John A. MacDonald was a Prime Minister of Canada, his **birthplace** is in Scotland.
 - a. the city or town where something/someone was born
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 - a. a ceremony to forgive a criminal
 - b. a ceremony to honour a dead person

Listening

1. What was Fidel Castro's job?

President of Cuba

2. What was carried in a procession through the country?

Castro's ashes

3. Where did the procession start?

Havana

4. Who or what was born in Santiago?

The Cuban Revolution

5. Who caused controversy with comments about Castro?

Justin Trudeau

6. According to Trudeau, Castro made improvements in which two sectors?

Education and health care

7. What was Castro's relationship with Trudeau's father?

He was a close friend

8. What was Castro's role at the funeral?

honourary pall bearer